

RESOLUTION NO. 12-003

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that a program honoring Dr. Emerson A. Cooper for his contributions to the Oakwood community and to celebrate his 88th Birthday will be held at Oakwood University Church on Sunday, January 15, 2012, at 4:00 p.m., to which all are invited; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Emerson A. Cooper, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Oakwood University (formerly Oakwood College), was born on January 15, 1924, in the Republic of Panama. He grew up in the Canal Zone, where he received an American-style elementary and junior high school education. He came to Oakwood in 1945 to complete his high school work. In 1946, he graduated from Oakwood Academy in Huntsville, Alabama. In 1945, he also accepted the Third Angel's message and was baptized into the Adventist Church by Dr. O. B. Edwards and Elder C. E. Moseley. He has been a faithful member of the Oakwood University Church since that time; and,

WHEREAS, his college work included chemistry courses at the City College of New York (CCNY), as well as his school work at Oakwood College. By the summer of 1948, he had completed the requirements for his Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical Science at Oakwood College, and after completing college in two and one-half years, began his teaching career at Oakwood College in the fall of 1948; and,

WHEREAS, while on a leave of absence from Oakwood College during the academic year 1950-51, he worked as a chemist, and later became a consultant for the Metric Chemical Company in New York City. One of the products of this company was named "Emersite" in honor of Dr. Cooper because of his contribution to its development; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Cooper received a MS degree in Chemistry from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1954. In 1959, he received a Ph. D. in Chemistry from Michigan State University, and thus became the first all-Oakwood-trained graduate to earn a doctoral degree; and,

WHEREAS, in 1962, Dr. Cooper became the first Oakwood faculty member to receive a federal grant. This was an Atomic Energy Commission Equipment Grant of \$4,200. Dr. Cooper was one of several professors responsible for having members of the Redstone Arsenal Rocket Center Research Team consisting of German expatriates, including Dr. Werner Von Braun, teach high level physics and math courses for the science students at Oakwood College. He also unofficially served as a consultant to NASA; and,

WHEREAS, in 1985, Dr. Cooper proposed a theory recommending vitamin C as a treatment for AIDS. Dr. Linus Pauling proposed the same idea, but the two men arrived at their conclusions independently. Earlier, while at Kentucky State University, Dr. Cooper proposed vitamin C, which is an antiviral agent, as a treatment for the common cold and flu; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Cooper is currently married to the former Marjorie Stephens, a graduate of Oakwood College (1948), who holds both a MBA and a MS in Nutrition from Alabama A&M University. In 1993, she retired as an accountant with the Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal. The Coopers have three children: Mrs. Roslyn C. Fields is a Registered Nurse; Mr. Stephen N. Cooper is also a Registered Nurse; and Mrs. Margo A. Bagley, formerly a Chemical Engineer for the Proctor and Gamble Company, is now a Professor of Law at The University of Virginia Law School. Dr. and Mrs. Cooper have six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, wish to honor Dr. Emerson A. Cooper on his 88th Birthday, and express our appreciation for his dedication

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and almost half century (49 years) of service to Oakwood (College) University. Because of his many contributions, Oakwood University today ranks among the top 15 to 20 colleges and universities in the nation in preparing and sending Black students to medical school.

ADOPTED this the 12th day of January, 2012.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 12th day of January, 2012.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama